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International Court of Justice

H3593 - 0002

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : 2 August 1948

I certify that Document Number TC-73 was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number GB-72 in the Trial by the International Military Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall
Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H3593 - 0003

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document TC-73 No. GB-72 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the British Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the OCCWC Evidence Library, Palace of Justice, Nuremberg

Paul Joosten

PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military Tribunal

Nuremberg, 30 July 1948

TC 73

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

337155

NUREMBERG, GERMANY
GB Exhibit 27
Rec'd 5 Mar 46

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

CONCERNING

POLISH - GERMAN

AND

POLISH - SOVIET RELATIONS

1933-1939

THE

POLISH WHITE BOOK

Published
by Authority of the Polish Government
by
ROY - PUBLISHERS
New York

H3593 – 0004

Coulondre considers that in the last resort we could inform the German Government after midnight on the lines of our answer to President Roosevelt and to the British Government, that the Polish Embassy at Berlin was always at the German Government's disposition. It would be a peace gesture.

No. 110

M. BECK *to M. Lipski*
Warsaw, August 31, 1939. 12.40 *p.m.*

WITH reference to your reports, please request the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or the Secretary of State, for an interview and inform him as follows: Last night the Polish Government were informed by the British Government of an exchange of views with the Reich Government as to a possibility of direct negotiations between the Polish and the German Governments.

The Polish Government are favourably considering the British Government's suggestion, and will make them a formal reply on the subject during the next few hours at the latest.

No. 111

THE POLISH EMBASSY *in Berlin to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs*
August 31, 1939. 3.15 p.m.

IN accordance with instructions received, M. Lipski asked, at 1 p.m., for an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. At 3 p.m. the Under Secretary of State, M. von Weizsäcker rang up the Ambassador personally, asking him whether he wanted to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs as a special plenipotentiary or in some other capacity.

M. Lipski replied that he was asking for an interview in his capacity of Ambassador to remit a communication from his Government.

M. von Weizsäcker took note of the information and said he would pass it on to M. von Ribbentrop.

No. 112 GB-72

M. LIPSKI *to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs*
Berlin, August 31, 1939.
(Received at 10.30 p.m.)

I WAS received by M. von Ribbentrop at 6.30 p.m.

I carried out my instructions.[1] M. von Ribbentrop asked if I had special plenipotentiary powers to undertake negotiations. I said no.

[1] No. 110.

H3593 – 0005

He then asked whether I had been informed that on London's suggestion the German Government had expressed their readiness to negotiate directly with a delegate of the Polish Government, furnished with the requisite full powers, who was to have arrived on the preceding day, August 30. I replied that I had no direct information on the subject. In conclusion M. von Ribbentrop repeated that he had thought I would be empowered to negotiate. He would communicate my *démarche* to the Chancellor.

No. 113

OFFICIAL GERMAN COMMUNIQUÉ *broadcast by the German Wireless at* 9 p.m.

August 31, 1939.

HIS Britannic Majesty's Government informed the German Government, in a note dated August 28, 1939, of their readiness to offer their mediation towards direct negotiations between Germany and Poland over the problems in dispute. In so doing they made it abundantly clear that they, too, were aware of the urgent need for progress in view of the continuous incidents and the general European tension. In a reply dated August 29, the German Government, in spite of being sceptical as to the desire of the Polish Government to come to an understanding, declared themselves ready in the interests of peace to accept the British mediation or suggestion. After considering all the circumstances prevailing at the time, they considered it necessary in their note to point out that, if the danger of a catastrophe was to be avoided, then action must be taken readily and without delay. In this sense they declared themselves ready to receive a personage appointed by the Polish Government up to the evening of August 30, with the proviso that the latter was, in fact, empowered not only to discuss but to conduct and conclude negotiations.

Further, the German Government pointed out that they felt able to make the basic points regarding the offer of an understanding available to the British Government by the time the Polish negotiator arrived in Berlin.

Instead of a statement regarding the arrival of an authorized Polish personage, the first answer the Government of the Reich received to their readiness for an understanding was the news of the Polish mobilization, and only towards 12 o'clock on the night of August 30, 1939, did they receive a somewhat general assurance of British readiness to help towards the commencement of negotiations.

Although the fact that the Polish negotiator expected by the Government of the Reich did not arrive removed the necessary condition for informing His Majesty's Government of the views of the German Government as regards possible bases of negotiation, since His Majesty's Government themselves had pleaded for *direct* negotiations between Germany and Poland, the German Minister for Foreign

H3593 – 0006

H3593-0006A

TC-73-112
GB-72

H-3593

GB-72

TC-73

GB72 ~~vide GB27~~ (TC-73)

H3593 - 0007